

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 267

By Yokley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Raymond Large of Cosby.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Raymond Large; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Large was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Cosby High School, Raymond Large joined the United States Navy in 1937 and honorably served his nation for four years until his discharge in November of 1941; and

WHEREAS, soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 that precipitated United States participation in World War II, Mr. Large, a dauntless patriot willing to sacrifice his personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, volunteered for military service and joined the United States Army in 1942; and

WHEREAS, a member of this Nation's greatest generation, Raymond Large was assigned to the Fourth Infantry Division, attended Army Ranger school at Camp Forrest, and valiantly participated in the famed D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944, under the command of Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant during his Army career, Mr. Large was recognized for his courage and gallantry with two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the U.S. Army, Raymond Large became a mail carrier in Cosby, a job he carried out dutifully for thirty-two years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Large, a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly for the betterment of his community, was elected to the Cocke County Board of Education in 1970 and continued to win re-election until his retirement in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Large served the Board of Education with acumen and alacrity as both a representative of the fifth district and as Chairman, in which positions he earned the uniform respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, school children and Cocke County as a whole benefited from his assiduous efforts, as three different school superintendents, Everett Freshour, Beth O. Freeman, and Larry B. Blazer, relied on Mr. Large for his sound advice and perspicacious analyses of the issues facing the county's schools; during his tenure, his unfaltering dedication led to major improvements in the area schools, such as the addition of buildings, sports programs, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, in further evidence of his profound commitment to his neighbors and community, Raymond Large was a charter member of the Cosby Ruritan Club and the Cosby Volunteer Fire Department and mentored youth as a baseball and basketball coach; and

WHEREAS, for his many outstanding achievements, Mr. Large was named in 2001 as a Cocke County Citizen of the Century; the football field and the vocational wing at Cosby High School also have been dedicated in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Large was an active and devout member of Holders Grove Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Large was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Large is survived by his loving wife of sixty-two years, Susan Cureton Large, two children, two grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and many other family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Large was preceded in death by his parents, Harrison and Essie Large, and his siblings, Ima Brown and Iliff Large; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Large leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Raymond Large, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Large.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.